# Autumn Term 2026

**Class teacher: Mr Berry** **Class: Kestrels**

## English

This term, the children will be studying two books as part of their English work. During the first half of the term, they will be studying the story ''Counting on Katherine' by Helaine Becker. In this unit they will be learning how to write a fact file about NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, including a short biography. Their supporting novel for this text is The Extraordinary Life of Katherine Johnson. In the second half of term, they will be reading ''Greek Myths' by Jean Menzies, and will be focusing on making their own mini book of their own Odyssey adventure, as well as retelling a Greek myth. Additionally, during the Autumn term, they children will study a short poetry unit called 'Windrush Child' by John Asguard, taken from the book Under the moon and Over the Sea.

## Maths

This term the children will be studying place value up to 9,999 (Y4s) or 99,999 (Y5s). The Y5s will also look at understanding tenths and hundredths as part of a whole. They will learn how to use written methods such as the column method for addition and subtraction, as well as mental methods to strengthen their understanding of number. partitioning a number leading on to short multiplication for the Y5s, multiplying a 1 digit by a 3-digit number.
In the second half of the term, the Y5 children will continue to learn all about the part, part whole model and how this can be used to help solve a range of calculations. Y4s will look at a range of strategies for working out times tables facts and linking 3, 6, and 9 times tables. The term will end with the children learning about the concept of area and, for the Y5s, how they can link it to their knowledge of multiplication.

## Science

This term, the children will be learning how to compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets. They will learn that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution, and describe how to recover a substance from a solution. In addition to this, they will use their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, through methods such as filtering, sieving and evaporating. Finally, through a range of experiments, they will learn that changes can be reversible or irreversible.

## Topic

Our Topic for Autumn term is 'Maya Mania'. Through their history, the children will learn who the Mayans were and where the civilisation fits on a timeline; the environment which the Mayans lived in; their writing and number system; their Gods which they worshipped and finally the hierarchical system which the Mayan civilisation belonged to. In Geography, the children will plot the location of both North and South America on a map, as well as the oceans of the world. Once they have located South America, they will focus on naming and locating the main countries, as well as their capital cities. Children will learn that South America is a place of extremes and will learn about its rainforests, volcanoes and earthquakes. Finally, they divide and plot South America into its three physical regions—mountains and highlands, river basins and costal paths. Through their creative curriculum, the children will learn about the Samba and the carnival sounds and instruments from South America in music; they will learn how to make a self portrait using different mediums in Art and finally how to design and make a 3D bag with a handle in Design and Technology.

## Religious Education

During Religious Education this term, the children will be exploring two questions. In the first half term, they will learn about Christianity and explore the question 'What does it mean if God is holy and loving'. In the second half term, they will learn about Islam and consider the question 'What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?